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## How Do You Carry Your Cross?

Wyatt Sawyer

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1-21-1555  
~~SECRET~~

## HOW DO YOU CARRY YOUR CROSS???

If go to Old Jerusalem for visit today, must walk the VIA DOLOROSA:

- I. The Way of the Cross: from the sentencing of Christ at the Roman Pretorium to the silent tomb in the Garden. 14 stations. NOTE: Five are traditional only. 9 in N. T.
1. Jesus condemned by Pilate, scourged, mocked, and crowned with a crown of thorns.
  2. Lifting of the cross in the street.
  3. First fall; at the corner. Turn South. Fall
  4. Jesus meets His mother. She wipes brow.
  5. Simon of Cyrene compelled to help carry Christ's cross. Start uphill going west.
  6. Pass house of Veronica. She wipes his face with a cool cloth.
  7. Jesus FALLS again. Gets His breath.
  8. Speaks to Daughters of Jer. Lk. 19:23
  9. Jesus FALLS 3rd time. (Object of scourging was to beat prisoner half-to-death!)
  10. Luke 19:23. Jesus stripped of clothing.
  11. Jesus nailed.
  12. Jesus dies.
  13. Body removed
  14. Body buried.

NOTE: Jesus helped carry His cross about 8 blocks, longest distance from Petrolium to Golgatha. Deliberate!

- II. MATT. 27:26-37. SIMON OF CYRENE. 5th Stop
- A. Middle-aged Hellenistic Jew. Greek influence
  - B. From Lybia, North Africa, 800 miles away.
  - C. Probably saved for years for one visit to the Holy City and few days worship-temple
  - D. Father of Alexander and Rufus: Obviously Christians by A.D. 55 when Mark written.
  - E. "COMPELLED" to carry Jesus' cross: one end of cross-arm likely. Apostle John omits Simon's part altogether! 2nd mile-impress.
  - F. Simon did not volunteer, request nor suggest he/ help. Was commandeered! Forced!

## #2 - How do you carry your cross?

### III. WHAT IS THE CROSS A SYMBOL OF?

- A. Song: Old Rugged Cross -- "The emblem of suffering and shame!"  
V. 1. V. 4. "Its shame and reproach gladly bear."
- B. Symbol of SACRIFICE FOR OTHERS! Jesus did it all. Only pure Lamb of God anywhere!
- C. Ill. Son & Father visiting cathedrals in European capitals. Son saw a cross and asked "Daddy, what's that PLUS sign for?" Answer: "Son, God's love PLUS (the cross) equals salvation for our souls." Sign of salvation.
- D. "The Cross is the only Wooden Ladder tall enough to reach Heaven's throne."
- E. James Thompson: "Christianity, without the Cross is nothing. The Cross was the fitting close of a life of rejection, scorn, and defeat. But in no true sense have these things ceased or changed. Jesus is still He whom man despiseth, and the rejected of men."
- F. Woodrow A. Geier: "In the Cross, God descends to bear in his own heart, the sins of the world. In Jesus He atones at unimaginable cost to himself."

### IV. HOW DO YOU CARRY YOUR CROSS TODAY?

- A. Matthew 16:24-27 Definition of the cross: Self-denial.  
Cross-bearing. Suffering for Righteousness Sake. 3 stations!

#### 1. CROSS OF SELF-DENIAL!

Unselfishness, NEVER a grand characteristic of an affluent society -- like ours! People: Proud, heady, carnal, financially independent and self-sufficient.

Examples: Very little denial. Little denial in marriages!

Why 840 M divorces? Church-work. Youth calls established church-hypocritical "Want the crown without the cross!!!"

So few Christians? Refuse to surrender.

Reject Matt. 18:1-4 Mk. 16, Acts 2

PROBLEM: Many want Padded cross. Sanded cross. Smooth life.

#### 2. SPIRITUAL CROSS-BEARING. Matt. 10:32-39

Prepared to lose FAMILY unity - closeness ???

Prepared to lose ECONOMIC advantages ???

Prepared to lose broad SOCIAL acceptance ???

Prepared to lose PEACE in your own home ???

a. Jesus leads you ONLY where He has gone before!! John 14:6

Ill. Poem: IN HIS STEPS.

### #3 How do you carry your cross?

#### 3. CROSS OF SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

- a. Thomas a Kempis: "Carry the cross patiently and with perfect submission and in the end, it will carry you." Matt. 5:10-12
- b. GUARANTEE: If you obey the gospel, live right, try to teach others truth, serve the needy and love the lost, you will have TROUBLE & SUFFER in this life.

III. Jean Simpson, Medina Home. Directed benevolence to friend of Medina Home. mem. of Denom. Slighted, ignored, censured and maligned as sheep-stealer.

Neglected by own church group.

Barber's son in wreck cut Home children's hair free!

- c. Many of US, like Peter, John Mark and other N. T. characters: Try the cross and fail and TRY AGAIN.

#### III. POEM: I CARRIED MY CROSS

#### INV. HOW DO YOU CARRY YOUR CROSS TODAY?

- 1. Laid it down? Need to be restored? Pick it up?
- 2. Some never helped Jesus ONE bit! Time to start?  
Obey gospel: Acts 22:16
- 3. QUESTION: MUST JESUS BEAR THE CROSS ALONE?  
Please think on these words while we are singing  
the invitation song: #30 Christian Hymns No. III)

HOW DO YOU CARRY YOUR CROSS????10:45  
INT:

If go to Old Jerusalem for visit <sup>TODAY</sup> must walk the  
VIA DOLOROSA: The Way of the Cross: from the  
 I. sentencing of Christ at the Roman Pretorium to  
 the silent tomb in the Garden. 14 stations  
 NOTE: Five are traditional only. 9 in N. T.

1. Jesus condemned by Pilate, scourged, mocked,  
 (M-M-L-John) and crowned with a crown of thorns. 1st....  
 (J 19:17) 2nd: Lifting of the cross in the street. Go W.

Trad... 3rd: First fall; at the corner. Turn South. FALL

Trad... 4th: Jesus meets His mother. She wipes brow.

MML.... 5th: Simon of Cyrene compelled to help carry  
 Christ's cross. Start uphill going west.

Trad.... 6th: Pass house of Veronica. She wipes his face  
 with a cool cloth.

Trad.... 7th: Jesus FALLS again. *Sits His breath.*

8th: Speaks to Daughters of Jer. Lk. 19:23.

Trad.... 9th: Jesus FALLS 3rd time. (Object of scourging  
 was to beat prisoner half-to-death!)

10th: Luke 19:23. Jesus stripped of clothing.

11th: Jesus nailed. → 12th: Jesus dies.

13th: Body removed. 14th: Body buried.

NOTE: Jesus helped carry His cross about  
 8 blocks, longest distance from  
 Pretorium to Golgatha. Deliberate!

10:52  
 II. \* MATT. 27:26-37. SIMON OF CYRENE. *5th stop.*

A. Middle-aged Hellenistic Jew. Greek influence

B. From Lybia, North Africa, 800 miles away.

C. Probably saved for years for one visit  
 to the Holy City and few days worship-temple

D. Father of Alexander and Rufus: Obviously  
 Christians by A. D. 55 when Mark written.

E. "COMPELLED" to carry Jesus' cross: one end  
 of cross-arm likely. Apostle John omits  
 Simon's part altogether! 2nd mile-impress.

F. Simon did not volunteer, request nor  
 suggest he help. Was commandeered! Forced!

John

19:17.



11:07

2. SPIRITUAL CROSS-BEARING. Matt. 10:32-39\*

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Prepared to lose ECONOMIC advantages???  
Prepared to lose broad SOCIAL acceptance??  
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Ill. Poem: IN HIS STEPS.

3. CROSS OF SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

11:10

a. Thomas a Kempis: "Carry the cross patiently and with perfect submission and in the end, it will carry you." Matt. 5:10-12.

b. GUARANTEE: If you obey the gospel, live right, try to teach others truth, serve the needy and love the lost, you will have TROUBLE & SUFFER in this life.

*Barbara's poem*  
(Neglected in  
by own *wreck*  
church *cut*  
group.) *Homes*  
*Children's hour*  
*free!*

Ill. Jean Simpson, Medina Home. Directed benevolence to friend of Medina home, mem. of Denom. *Slighted*, ignored, censured and meligned as sheep-stealer

c. Many of US, like Peter, John Mark and other N. T. characters: Try the cross and fail and TRY AGAIN.

Ill. POEM: I CARRIED MY CROSS.

INV.

HOW DO YOU CARRY YOUR CROSS TODAY? *Pink ink exp?*

1. Laid it down? Need to be restored? R-P.

*Some!*

2. Never helped Jesus ONE bit! Time to start? Obey gospel: Acts 22:16.

3. QUESTION: MUST JESUS BEAR THE CROSS ALONE?

Please think on these words while we are singing the invitation song:

(#30 Christian Hymns Number III.

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- 57
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## IV. HOW DO YOU CARRY YOUR CROSS TODAY?

- 11:02 A. Matthew 16:24-27\* Definition of the cross: Self-denial. Cross-bearing. Suffering for Righteousness Sake. *3 stations!*

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PROBLEM: Many want Padded cross! *Sanded cross... Smooth life!*